

SKW Construction Limited

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Design Access Statement

Ref. Provision of a New SEN Classroom unit at Woodbank Primary School, Brandlesholme Road, Bury

Pre-application has been sought and was given the reference 02890E advice received on the 30th of August with subsequent statutory consultees comments received the following week the access statement looks to address some of these concerns specifically, in response we have commissioned a contaminated land report and a Cal mining risk assessment and impact report we expect to have the reports back W/C 25th/09/23 and will forward once complete.

The below statements look to address the concerns raised by Sports England, and provide a robust argument as to why this site has been selected and the educational imperative of the scheme. The School are more than confident that the loss of green space will in no way impact their ability to provide a full and comprehensive program of physical education. The school will retain its current football pitch and a significant area of green space for other activities. The school also benefits from a hard surface MUGA which is also well utilised. In the larger community there is significant green space and immediately adjacent to the school is the home of Woodbank Cricket club with a full cricket ground.

It is intended to locate a classroom to the Northwest side of the existing school on what is currently a grass recreational space. The location of the building will not have an adverse effect on the current biodiversity of the location which is identified as having low value. The current area being subject to regular mowing.

Working with the DfE in its Project Safety Valve program (PSV), the Council has developed ambitious plans to transform its arrangements in respect of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). The PSV program includes a comprehensive approach to understanding the sufficiency requirements across the local area, and an extensive program to deliver increased capacity of high quality, local specialist provision.

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From this, a program has been developed to deliver increased capacity through the establishment of several new Resourced Provision units linked to mainstream schools, one such being at Woodbank Primary School.

The new Resourced Provision at Woodbank Primary School is a key element and a priority of the specialist place sufficiency strategy. This will provide access to high quality local provision, whilst also reducing reliance on out-of-borough placements.

It is proposed to establish a new 12 place Specialist Resourced Provision for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Conditions and Speech, Language and Communication Needs. The provision will be located in purpose built modular accommodation within the school site. Pupils will be admitted incrementally from September 2023.

Resourced Provision units enable children and young people with an Education Health and Care Plan to remain in a mainstream school setting, with that setting being able to offer enhanced support to meet specific additional needs.

Development of additional resourced provision in mainstream settings – as set out in the Project Safety Valve agreement between the Council and the Department for Education, is a key element of the specialist place sufficiency strategy.

Taken together, the Agreement and strategy set out the business case for the development of new provision to meet increasing demand for specialist provision and reduce the reliance on placements in Independent Non-Maintained Special Schools (INMSS).

The PSV agreement between the Council and Department for Education (DfE) sets out the requirement for new specialist educational provision, including new Resourced Provision and new Free Special Schools. This includes a schedule of those mainstream schools where it is intended to establish new RP, the funding allocated to support delivery, and indicative timescales for delivery. The agreement has been subject to consideration by Cabinet and the Children & Young People's Scrutiny Committee and is subject to governance provided by the PSV Delivery Board. The development of new specialist provision seeks to ensure access to a high quality continuum of provision, enabling the majority of children and young people with additional needs to access local provision, with appropriate capacity and resources to meet need. Long-term value for money will be achieved by pupils having their needs met within appropriate mainstream provision with specialist support rather than in special school provision.

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This will free up special school places for pupils with the highest level of needs and provide the opportunity to place high need pupils within the borough, rather than in out of borough provision.

Working with the DfE in its Project Safety Valve program (PSV), the Council has developed ambitious plans to transform its arrangements in respect of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

The PSV program considers all aspects of the Council's approach to SEND, which includes a comprehensive approach to understanding the sufficiency requirements across the local area, and an extensive program to deliver increased capacity of high quality, local specialist provision.

Within the program, the Council has developed a SEND sufficiency strategy which seeks to respond to the lack of maintained specialist provision to meet current and forecast increased demands from within the resident population.

From this, a program has been developed to deliver increased capacity through the establishment of a number of new Resourced Provision units linked to mainstream schools. This will provide access to high quality local provision, whilst also reducing reliance on out of borough placements.

Bury currently has a significantly lower number of Resourced Provision places than nationally and regionally.

Current and forecast future patterns of demand have been analysed and mapped against current provision. This includes the likely pressure for specialist placements for children and young people currently in mainstream schools, which is particularly acute for those with Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC), Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs, and Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN), especially in the primary sector.

The specialist place sufficiency strategy identified a number of schools capable of supporting the development of new Resourced Provision and the quantum of new places required to meet increasing demand from the local population.

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We acknowledge Sports England's concerns regarding the loss of green recreational space however the location of the new facility has been carefully selected to ensure that the scheme does not negatively impact on the school's ability to deliver a full and comprehensive selection of physical activities. The main focus of these being towards the northeast side of the site which includes a fully lined football pitch as well as areas for other sports including track and field. These are marked on the accompanying location plan to show there is no loss of organised sports activities. The site has been selected as providing the most direct route from the carpark, without physical barriers and to ensure the welfare of students and visitors. At the moment the area designated for this development is under utilised, because of its location and adjacencies with the mobile library and outdoor educational program tending for chickens etc. The school encourage physical activities of all kinds and have engaged with external bodies to ensure the football pitch is open to the wider community. The introduction of the walking track around the site was constructed to encourage students of all abilities to participate in activities and has been a great success. The school were unaware that they were obliged to inform Sports England regarding its construction and are deeply apologetic about this oversight. It has however had a huge positive impact on the health and activity of both pupils and parents.

There is a real and urgent need for this facility and the school have looked at all areas in terms of its possible location. However the selected site is the least disruptive to the schools operations, provides the safest location in terms of access and security and is the least utilised area of the schools site.

The school is well serviced in terms of transport links, including a bus service. However, most pupils who attend the facility will be from the local area. Commuting principally by foot.

The area designated for this development has easy access both on foot and by transport. However, construction access is limited and in order to mitigate this the council has sought out alternative methods of construction to minimise disruption to the school and the larger community, The preferred method of construction being offsite fabrication.

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The building will be designed to exceed the current requirements of the building standards by a considerable margin, with insulation values way above requirements and maximizing the efficiencies of factory build to ensure junctions are perfectly formed to minimise loss of heat through leaking fabric the air tightness being around half that of the building standards requirements. Fenestrations are also highly efficient. Modern and efficient systems have been selected to ensure the carbon footprint is as low as possible, with Air source heat pumps being the principal method of heating. Lighting systems are all LED with efficient controls to prevent lights being left on unintentionally and dimming or turning them off when there is sufficient natural light.

The choice of external cladding (Pre coated galvanized steel) has been selected so that the building can sit sympathetically within its environment, whilst providing a low maintenance solution.

It is recognized that access for all is key to the community and the smooth operation of the school. Access to the facility will be via a ramped approach. The design of all routes into and around the building take into consideration the users who may have limited mobility, to ensure they can fully enjoy the facility and negotiate the building unaided, and fully complies with the requirements of BS8300.

Your Sincerely,



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